

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, PFOR

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: NEW YORK ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW

REFS: A. CAIRO 3262, B. STATE 303017 (24 DEC. 1975)

C. STATE 295052 (15 DEC. 1975)

1. REF A SUGGESTS POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING OF NY LAW BY
OFFICIALS ATTENDING BOYCOTT CONFERENCE.

2. THOUGH THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL INITIAL CONFUSION OVER
LAW'S SCOPE, IT IS NOW GENERALLY CONSIDERED PARALLEL TO
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS IN DOC REGULATIONS. OUR
BEST INFORMATION AS NOTED REFS B AND C IS THAT IT DOES NOT
RPT NOT PROHIBIT NY FIRMS FROM RESPONDING TO BOYCOTT
REQUESTS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS ETC.

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DISCRIMINATION. REFLECTIVE OF ITS LIMITED SCOPE IS FACT,

THAT SINCE LAW ENTERED INTO FORCE, MOST NY BANKS HAVE
CONTINUED TO PROCESS LETTERS OF CREDIT CONTAINING NEGATIVE
CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN.

3. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF BOYCOTT CONFERENCE ADOPTED
HARSH RECOMMENDATIONS ON BASIS OF FUNDAMENTAL MISCONCEPTION
OF NY LAW. ACCORDINGLY, IF APPROPRIATE OCCASION ARISES,
EMB MAY CALL INFORMATION IN PARA 2 TO ATTENTION OF PERSONS
PLANNING TO ATTEND BOYCOTT CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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